Dear Parents, Staff and Children

Have you ever held a grudge, not forgiven someone you believe has wronged you? Furthermore, have you shared your views with friends hoping to find solace?

They say that adults find it more difficult to forgive than children.

Michael Grose, a world renowned behaviouralist argues that everyone needs acceptance and that through the use of putdowns, sledging or idle gossip one tries to gain acceptance in the group.

The negative effect is the loss of friendship, a move towards alienation of others and the destruction of self-esteem. It also leads to the loss of respect by others.

What one person believes or values does not necessarily hold true for another. However, this does not mean that their actions, views or values are wrong.

As we move towards the season of Advent, this conversation is a timely reminder of the need to reconcile our differences and prepare for the birth of Christ. Advent is a time of preparation and with the lighting of the first Advent candle this weekend we are reminded that Jesus is the light of the world and his coming brings new hope to the world. Maybe, as we focus on those that have wronged us we can find the light of Christ and prepare to forgive.

Advent Prayer
Henri J.M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

Have a happy and peaceful weekend.

Peace and Best Wishes

Jake

COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER
3-7 Year 6 Camp
4 P & F Annual General Meeting 7:00 pm in the LARC
5 Swimming Time Trials
6 Year 5 Liturgy in the Church at 12:00 noon then Learning Journey in the Classroom (please note change of date)
7 Giving Mass 9:15 am in the Church
10 Reports go home
12 Years 2-4 Nativity Pageant 2:00 pm in hall (please note change of date)
18 School Speech Day 9:15 am
19 Year 6 Graduation Mass 5:30 pm and Graduation Dinner 7:00 pm
20 FINAL DAY OF TERM FOUR

JANUARY
30 First day of school for Years 1-6

FEBRUARY
6 First day of school for Year K
RE AND MINISTRY NEWS

ADVENT GIVING MASS
On Friday 7 December we will celebrate our annual Advent Giving Mass in St Augustine’s Church at 9:15am.

At this Mass, we as a school acknowledge the invaluable work done by our local chapter of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

This year the St Vincent de Paul Society has asked us not to donate goods as their success in other programs such as “Adopt a Family” have drastically reduced the need for hampers.

Instead our weekly Missions effort plus a gold coin donation day will allow us to write a cheque to support the St Vincent de Paul Society in our local community this Christmas.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION MASS
We are all very proud of the Year 6 students and the manner in which they have led our school this year. The time has come for the Year 6 Graduation Mass. This will be held on Wednesday December 19 and begin at 5:30 pm. Students must meet their teachers outside the Church by 5:15 pm in preparation for the commencement of Mass and their Graduation procession. Full school uniform must be worn. Family and friends please wait inside the church. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Paddy Dent - Coordinator: Ministry
Michelle Scott - Coordinator: Religious Education Curriculum

P & F NEWS
Annual General Meeting
The P & F AGM will be held on Tuesday 4 December at 7:00 pm in the LARC. All welcome.

FETE NEWS
Despite the untimely rain the Fete was a huge success. This was due to the fantastic efforts of our school community lead by P & F President Stephen Appleton and committee members Tennille O’Rourke-Cox and Kylie Butcher. A special thank you to those wonderful parents who helped with the set up and were still working at the time of pack up. To the stall coordinators, your willingness to help out was really appreciated and many of you did not get a break all afternoon. To anyone who helped in any way, through donations of prizes and working before, during and after the day, a heartfelt thank you. Our children are the winners because of what you did.

Each year members of the Lions Club donate their services to help at the Fete. We thank them once again for their continued support of our school.

FETE PRIZE WINNERS
Cake Box Decorating
Yr K—Ari Dodd, Joseph Oliver-Lynch, Logan Lacey
Yr 1—Cetaya Anning, Sophie Beaty, Ella Robinson
Yr 2—Siena Carrett, Jackson Hibbard, Rory Beech

Major Raffle
First prize—Ernie & Robyn
Second prize—Brian Wills
Third prize—L Brown

Tombola Draw
Radin Wainwright

Spin the Bottle Draw
Caden Ward

Ella Bache Raffle donated by Carmen Blackett
Winner—Toni Southwell.

WATER SLIDE NIGHT
Our final fun event for the year will be the Water Slide Night on Friday 14 December from 5:00—7:00 pm. The P & F will run a bbq/drinks stall. Tickets ($10 each for children and adults, free for non-participants) will be on sale outside the Canteen on Monday 10 December from 8:30—9:30 am and afterwards at the school office.

Scott Bohringer—P & F Committee Secretary

YEAR 6 SPEECH COMPETITION
Congratulations to Claudia Charles who won this year’s competition. The topic for the prepared speech was ‘Choosing friends is the most important decision you will make’. Our guest judge, Ms Brigid Punch gave all the finals great feedback and encouraged them to continue with their efforts in public speaking. The other finalists were Anna Jourdant, Will Vignes, Tamsyn Simpson, Mimana Kiel, Sienna O’Carroll, Jessica Nicholls, Lauren Taylor, Tara Charleson and Bronte Laarhoven.

YEAR 6 CAMP
We wish all our Year 6 students and their teachers well as they head off to Lake Ainsworth near Lennox Head for their camp on Monday. They will join other students from Mary Help of Christians, Sawtell and St Francis Xavier, Woolgoolga. This will be a great time of learning and an important part of the transition program to Year 7.

YEAR 6 INFORMAL SOCIAL GET TOGETHER
2012 Year 6 students and their families are invited to meet at the Jetty Foreshores (near kids’ park and bbq shelters - weather permitting) on Sunday 16 December 2012 from 11:00 am. Come for an hour or two, it’s up to you. BYO food, drinks, chairs/blanket & amusements.

CHAU & HENNESSY
PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
Suite 3, 14 Edgar Street, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
Telephone. 02 6652 2999 Fax. 02 6652 4694
Email. mail@chpa.com.au Website. www.chpa.com.au
**SPORT NEWS**

**Summer Sports Trials**

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in making the Lismore Diocesan Summer Sports Teams. We wish them the best of luck for the Polding Selection Trials.

Basketball  Noah Dalton, Siena Bordignon, Malina Kama, Teagan Mayer

Tennis  Regan Dougherty

**Swimming Time Trials**

Swimming Time Trials for the 2012 Zone team will be held on Wednesday 7 December. The trials are from 12:00 pm to 2:30pm. If there are any parents who are able to assist on the day please contact the office.

**Rugby Uniforms**

Thank you to all the players who have returned their Rugby uniforms. If you have not returned it as yet could you please return it as soon as possible. Thank you for the great season.

_Dan Hammond—Sports Coordinator_

**CHESS NEWS**

Our new Chess tables are almost complete and looking wonderful. The children will be able to commence using them in the near future. A big thank you to the Mapleson family for their donation of the tiles.

_Stephanie George—Chess Coordinator_

**LARC MATTERS**

Thank you to everyone who supported our highly successful Book Fair. At times we were overwhelmed with the enthusiasm and support of our LARC fundraiser. The variety and quality of books on offer was exceptional. Special thanks to Dymocks for their support to our school. There are a few orders outstanding, but they should be here very soon.

I hope orders have been placed for the school Year Book. The LARC has had quite an input to the Year Book this year with ongoing celebrations of the National Year of Reading. We are not finished yet, and some regular Years 3-6 readers and patrons of the LARC are about to find themselves in for a surprise to finish off the NYR. I wonder what it is?

_See you in the LARC - Mrs Madden—Teacher Librarian_

**TWITTER** - http://www.twitter.com/sapcoffs

Our school has a new twitter account where we tweet about the many wonderful things happening at St Augustine’s School. You can discover our account by entering @sapcoffs into the Connect or Discover section of your twitter page. Don’t have twitter? It’s easy to join and a great way to see what’s happening in our school.

**UNWANTED SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

If you have any items of our school uniform you no longer require, please consider donating them to our clothing pool which is in the Canteen. We are particularly in need of small sizes of boys and girls shirts and shorts.

**CHILDREN LEAVING SCHOOL**

If your child/ren will not be returning to our school in 2013, please inform the office and fill in a Termination of Student Enrolment form. The Parish Office requires two weeks notice of termination of enrolment.

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM**

Fees are due to be paid by Monday 3 December for the Instrumental Music Program. All fees need to be paid in full to ensure your child continues lessons in Term 1, 2013. Reminders have been sent home again. If you need to discuss your account, please speak to Tess in the Office. Thank you.

**SKATEBOARDS, BIKES AND SCOOTERS**

Phone calls from the public have indicated there are some students who are not riding their skateboards to school responsibly. It’s important that students wear a helmet when riding to and from school. Please discuss safety issues with your child if they are using this mode of transport.

**SUPERVISION BEFORE SCHOOL**

A reminder that students should not arrive at school before teachers begin playground supervision. Supervision begins at 8:15 am when the first bus arrives. We ask that parents do no drop their children off to school before this time. Students who walk to school should also arrive no earlier than 8:15 am.
**Canteen Roster**

**December 03.12.2012**

**Mon**  P Duffy, C Jourdant

**Tues**  N Al-Athami, D Craig

**Wed**  **HELP!!!  HELP!!!  HELP!!!**

**Thur**  N Anning, M Dowden, J Golding

**Fri**  H Brindel, B Dougherty, J Roach, B Symons  L Zawadzki

**10.12.2012**

**Mon**  R Mott  **HELP!!!**

**Tues**  N Al-Athami, K Apps, R Kennedy

**Wed**  K Close, S Hartsuyker  **HELP!!!**

**Thur**  M De Satge, N Ferrett, M Waugh

**Fri**  M Batson, L Budd, D Budd, J Roach, B Symons

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**Canteen News**

Canteen helpers are always required. Help is needed for three hours from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon once a month. Grandparents are very welcome also. If you are able to help in the Canteen on any day please call us on 66521204.

*Wendy McLean—Canteen Manager*

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**Outside School Hours Care**

The Centre will be closed from 6pm 20 December and re-open with Vacation Care at 8am on 2 January 2013.

Invoices will be sent home next week with your child. Thank you for keeping your payments current.

**Closing Time**

Please remember Outside School Hours Care closes at 6:00 pm each school evening. If for any reason you cannot pick up your child/ren before 6:00 pm please make arrangements for an authorised person to collect your child/ren. A late pick up fee will apply for every 15 minutes after 6:00 pm. Thank you.

**Medications**

A letter has been sent to families who have children needing medication at After School Care/Vacation Care. If you have not responded to this letter, can you please do so as a matter of urgency to ensure your child’s safety is maintained. Thank you.

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**Certificates—Birth & Immunisation**

As a requirement of current regulations, After School Care/Vacation Care must hold a copy of the Birth Certificate and Immunisation Certificate for each child. A letter has been sent to families who have these certificates outstanding. Can you please ensure a copy of these documents is given to the School Office without delay to ensure we comply with the regulations. Thank you for your help with this matter.

**Vacation Care—2 January to 29 January 2013**

We are working on the Vacation Care Program at present and this will be available as soon as possible. If you need information on excursions etc. please either email Brigitte or call her on 0417 666 494 for information. Keep in mind the new fee structure below.

As previously mentioned from 1 December, 2012 a new procedure for bookings will take effect due to staff increases as a result of the non-receipt of prior bookings/cancellations. Details of the bookings and fee structure were sent out with the last school Newsletter and OSHC Newsletter enclosed with an earlier invoice.

**Accreditation**

Staff are now preparing the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) which must be lodged by 6 December 2012. The purpose of the plan is to help identify and prioritise which areas may need improvement. Therefore, it is imperative we have the help of families who use our service to give us input into all areas. Please GET INVOLVED in St Augustine’s OSHC, join our parent committee and decide together which changes are needed, what stays, which resources are needed and how we can generally improve our centre for our children.

My door is always open; you can find me in the OSHC room every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am and Friday from 10:00 am. Hope to see you soon!

**OSHC Tree**

The children will be making an OSHC tree during Vacation Care and After School Care. This ‘tree’ will be covered with leaves containing each child’s photo, their likes, dislikes, wishes and other information that makes them unique (as they are). Please give your child a photo when they attend care so we can start making this unique OSHC tree.

*Brigitte Klinkers—OSHC & Playgroup Coordinator*  
bklinkers@lism.catholic.edu.au  
0417 666494

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**Email Addresses**

If you know of any parent/carer who is not receiving our school emails with Newsletters and notes, please ask them to contact the office and supply us with a current email address.
St Augustine’s Children and Younger Siblings Only

A fun event has been organised by the P&F Association for students and younger siblings of St Augustine’s School.

Where: Big Banana

When: Friday 14 December 2012
      5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Cost: $10.00 for students and adults,
      free for non-participants

Tickets: Armbands for participants will be on
         sale from Monday 3 December at the
         School office.

A BBQ will be run by the P&F Association
– sausage sandwiches and drinks
will be on sale

For more information please contact the office on 66521204

NEEDED
Responsible person to assist in management of luxury visitor accommodation in new house close to St Augustine’s School. Unique opportunity to develop business, organisational and computing skills. Contact Margaret—66513667 or 0423 604039

Join the ‘VEGIE PATCH’ volunteers growing food to share
Gardening: 9:00 am every (fine) Saturday at Women’s Resource & Information Centre, Gordon Street, Coffs Harbour.
Contact Margaret 66513667
FREE fun program for kids to become fitter, healthier and happier!

Do you have children 7 to 13 years old?
Are you worried they might be above their healthy weight range?
Go4Fun is a FREE program which aims to teach kids how to be healthy and fit and stay that way!
The program runs during the school term and has been specifically designed for children aged 7-13 years and their primary care/s in a relaxed atmosphere with trained nutritionist and exercise leaders.
The Go4Fun program provides a fun approach to learning skills for life, such as preparing and eating healthy foods, reading food labels, keeping fit and healthy shopping on a budget.

Limited Offer: Family Fun Kit full of sporting equipment for families who complete Term 1, 2013.

Start Date: 4 February
Coffs Harbour: Narranga Primary Monday and Wednesday 4:15 pm – 6:15 pm
Toormina: Bayldon Community Centre Monday and Thursday 4:15 pm – 6:15 pm
To register please contact Go4Fun on 1800 780 900
or text 0409 745 645 for a call back.
Don’t Miss OUT!
What is Advent?

Advent is a season of the church. It is the beginning of a new church year. Advent is a period of reflection. It is a time of spiritual preparation in which we make ourselves ready for the birth of Jesus Christ. Celebrating Advent usually involves a season of prayer, followed by anticipation, hope and joy.

There are significant symbols for the season of Advent. The Advent wreath is a circular bough of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, four candles are arranged. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Purple has traditionally been the primary colour of Advent. Three purple candles are represented on the wreath. Purple is also the colour of royalty, demonstrating the anticipation and reception of Jesus. The pink candle on the wreath is used during the third Sunday. It represents joy.

St Vincent de Paul Gold Coin Appeal: Wednesday 5 December

In every face of despair, we see a face of hope.

Today, as many families prepare to celebrate the festive season with their loved ones, please spare a thought to those people doing it tough this Christmas. Some gifts have the ability to stay with a person for life and forever change the way they see the world and how they deal with it. Hope is such a gift. At Vinnies, we see hope in the face of despair.

This Christmas, your generous donation will help Vinnies provide much-needed help, from practical assistance to food hampers, emotional support to those without, and even gifts for children so they may still participate in the joys of Christmas. More than anything we can give hope to thousands of Australians in their time of need.

On Wednesday 5 December each student is invited to bring in a gold coin donation that will be presented to the St Vincent de Paul Society, Coffs Harbour at our Giving Mass on Friday 7 December at 9:15 am.
Ms Tara Kocek and I are wanting to collect information on Australian children and adolescents using state-of-the-art tests of mental abilities. Parents will be asked to complete questionnaires about their child’s abilities and behaviour. These measures are used for various reasons in clinical settings (e.g., assessing the effects of head injury, seizure disorders, learning difficulties, etc...) but for many of the measures we have very limited normative data for those living in Australia. It is very important for us to know how a wide range of Australian children and teens perform on the tests so we can then judge who may be exhibiting particular strengths or relative problems in some areas of attention or thinking.

As this is a research project we will not be able to offer any clinical feedback or advice but can provide a brief summary of your child’s results.

Thank you so much for taking the time to assist with this important research.

Your involvement is appreciated.

Please contact Tara via email (tara.kocek@scu.edu.au) if you are interested and she will be happy to send you an information package, discuss the project in more detail if need be, and make a time for a testing session.

Dr James Donnelly
Psychology
School of Health and Human Sciences
Southern Cross University,
Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450
02 66 59 3996